

IN THE CLAIMS

B<sup>1</sup>  
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1. (Twice Amended) ~~A~~ vascular endothelial cell growth factor (VEGF) antagonist molecule comprising a variant VEGF polypeptide, said variant polypeptide comprising an amino acid modification of at least one cysteine residue, wherein said amino acid modification inhibits the ability of said variant polypeptide to properly dimerize with another VEGF polypeptide monomer, wherein said antagonist molecule is capable of binding to VEGF receptors without significantly inducing a VEGF response, wherein said antagonist molecule is capable of inhibiting a biological activity of a native VEGF protein.

Cancel claim 15, without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending for prosecution in the present application. Claim 15 is canceled without prejudice. An Appendix is attached with the claims as pending for the Examiner's convenience.

***Entry of the Amendment***

Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the claimed antagonist molecule has antagonist capability. Support is found in the first line of Claim 1 as originally filed which recites a VEGF "antagonist molecule". This amendment is also supported throughout the application, and specifically at page 11, lines 26-27 of the specification as originally filed, which provides the present definition of "antagonist". Applicants believe that this amendment raises no new issues and that it places the claims in form for allowance or in better form for appeal. Moreover, the question of whether the prior art discloses a VEGF mutant that functions as an antagonist is discussed repeatedly during the prosecution of

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